



Alliance of Minority Medical Associations

1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Suite 575
Washington, DC 20036

Submitted via email
Ms. Betty Mercer
Director
Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan
June 24, 2005

Dear Ms. Betty Mercer:

I would like to congratulate you on your work to stop deregulation of Michigan's current system of alcohol control. Your work with Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan has helped educate your citizens about the dangers of unaccountable sales of alcohol. The Supreme Court recently said states' three-tier alcohol distribution system was "unquestionably legitimate." We encourage Michigan to keep its alcohol safeguards in place and require all sales take place face-to-face.

As a representative of the Alliance of Minority Medical Associations, representing a collaborative effort of the Asian and Pacific Physicians' Association (APPA), the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) and the National Medical Association (NMA), I support a state's right to control alcohol sales. Online alcohol sales open up the opportunity to market to youth without the standard regulations and eases youth access. The online sales will eliminate quality controls in sales of alcohol.

The National Institutes of Health reports that, "many children have their first drink at an early age, as young as 10 or 11 or even younger". Not only is this a problem for parents but the implications on the public health system are enormous. Alcohol related illness and deaths are likely to increase with easier access for our young people. The elimination of the face-to-face contact at the point of purchase has the potential to dramatically increase accessibility to alcohol thereby posing an increased health risk for children.

As a leader and representative from the Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan, I encourage and support your efforts to uphold the current alcohol control system in Michigan and thank you for working to protect the youth of Michigan. I only hope leaders across the country will follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randall Maxey

President
Alliance of Minority Medical Associations